

Epi Update for Friday, March 15, 2019
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Flood-related disease precautions and information**
- **AAP: No influenza vaccine preference for 2019-'20 season**
- **Quinidine for severe malaria no longer available, contact CDC for artesunate**
- **In the news: If you're safe from cholera, thank my dad, a plumber (and thank the ancient Romans)**
- **In the news: A gulp of genetically modified bacteria might someday treat a range of illnesses**
- **In the news: Deaths from dementia have more than doubled in U.S., report says**
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- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Flood-related disease precautions and information

Recent rains in combination with melting snow have resulted in flooding in some parts of the state. It is important to maintain personal hygiene in a flood situation to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses. Proper hand washing, bathing, clothes washing, dental hygiene, and wound care treatment can keep those affected by a flood safe and healthy.

Food contamination can be a problem after a flood because flood water can carry mud, raw sewage, chemicals, and fuel. Filth and disease-causing bacteria can contaminate any food the water contacts and make that food unsafe to eat. Never taste food to determine its safety. If in doubt, throw it out. Discard any food that is not in a waterproof container if there is any chance that it has come into contact with flood water.

People commonly ask about the risk of tetanus and hepatitis during floods. Increases in cases of tetanus and hepatitis have not been associated with flooding. People are at risk for tetanus infection when they are injured and have wounds that are contaminated by the environment. Flooding is not shown to increase the risk for tetanus disease. However, cleaning up after a flood may increase the risk of getting a wound. Injured individuals can be assessed to determine whether a tetanus-containing vaccine is needed. Hepatitis immunizations are recommended for some people based on behavioral, occupational, medical, and other risk factors. Hepatitis risk is not increased due to exposure to flood waters. However, floods serve as a good reminder to ensure patients are up to date on all recommended vaccines. Tetanus and hepatitis immunizations are part of the routinely recommended vaccine schedules for children and adults.

For more information, visit idph.iowa.gov/flooding.

AAP: No influenza vaccine preference for 2019-'20 season

This week the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) clarified that they will no longer express a preference for the influenza shot over nasal spray vaccine for children during the 2019-'20 influenza season. The recommendation comes after AAP reviewed current data on vaccine coverage and effectiveness and flu season characteristics. It also considered the reformulation of the nasal spray vaccine.

AAP and CDC did not recommend using the nasal spray (live attenuated influenza vaccine, LAIV) in 2016-'17 or 2017-'18 due to poor effectiveness against H1N1 strains. LAIV manufacturer AstraZeneca has since changed the formulation of the vaccine to include a new strain (A/Slovenia) that it suggested would produce better antibody responses than the previous H1N1 strain (A/Bolivia).

This season, AAP recommended using the influenza shot (inactivated influenza vaccine, IIV) as the primary vaccine choice, while saying LAIV may be used for children who would not otherwise receive a vaccine. CDC did not express a preference.

In making a recommendation for the 2019-'20 season, AAP reviewed U.K. data showing that the reformulated LAIV has been effective against influenza A/H1N1 for children this season, when H1N1 has been the predominant circulating strain.

AAP recommends universal vaccination for everyone 6 months and older.

Quinidine for severe malaria no longer available, contact CDC for artesunate

Quinidine, the only FDA-approved IV antimalarial drug used to treat severe malaria, will no longer be available starting April 1, 2019. At that time, IV artesunate, the WHO-recommended first-line treatment for severe malaria, will become the first-line drug for treatment of severe malaria in the U.S. Because IV artesunate is neither FDA-approved nor commercially available in the U.S., CDC has made IV artesunate available under an expanded access investigational new drug (IND) protocol.

Starting April 1, all U.S. clinicians must call CDC to obtain IV artesunate to treat cases of severe malaria.

CDC is hosting a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call on Thursday, March 28 to review guidance for use of IV artesunate for the treatment of severe malaria.

For more information, including how to join the COCA call, visit emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2019/callinfo_032819.asp.

In the news: If you're safe from cholera, thank my dad, a plumber (and thank the ancient Romans)

www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2019/03/11/world-plumbing-day-water-sanitation-public-column/3102889002/

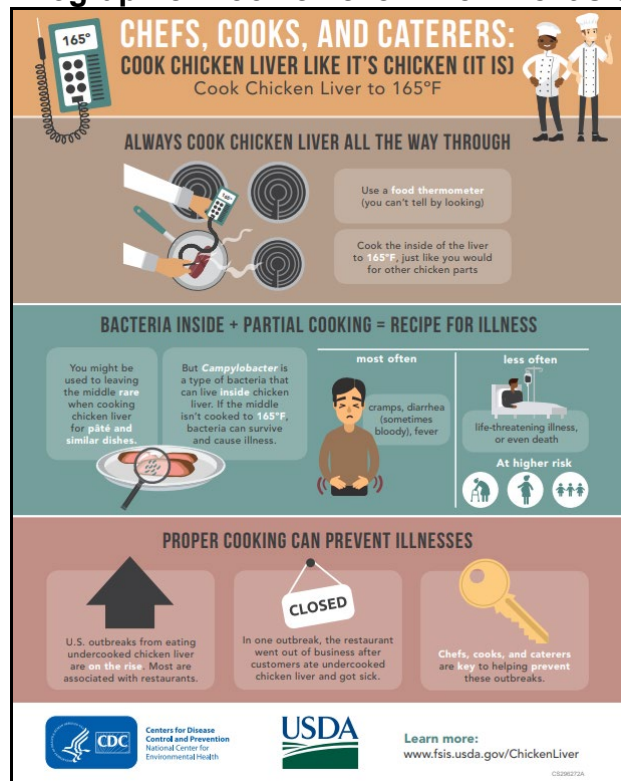
In the news: A gulp of genetically modified bacteria might someday treat a range of illnesses

www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/03/08/687370312/a-gulp-of-genetically-modified-bacteria-might-someday-treat-a-range-of-illnesses

In the news: Deaths from dementia have more than doubled in U.S., report says

www.cnn.com/2019/03/14/health/dementia-deaths-study/index.html

Infographic: Cook chicken liver like it's chicken (it is)



To view in full size, visit

www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/factsheets/chicken-liver-infographic-p.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The St. Louis STD/HIV Prevention Training Center will be hosting *STD Update – Focus on Syphilis* at the Scott County Administrative Building in Davenport on Friday, March 22 from 8:30 am – 12:45 pm. This training will provide the latest information to clinicians regarding the epidemiology, clinical presentation, laboratory testing, and treatment related to syphilis. To register, visit courses.nnptc.org/register.html?id=2512.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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